In conclusion, he said that he understood that a special officer was to be appointed to look after the welfare of the depressed classes. He suggested that the present Land Revenue Commissioner be appointed as such officer without prejudice to his other duties.

13. Difficulties experienced by Pulayas and other depressed classes after the concessional registry of puduval lands in their names.

Mr. Aiyan Kali (Member, Nominated), in thanking the Government for the concessions granted to the members of the depressed classes in the matter of registry of *puduval* lands, referred to some of the difficulties the people were encountering in securing lands on concessional terms. It was at the sacrifice of revenue that Government had ordered the registry of lands to the depressed classes; but the poor assignees of those lands were put to the necessity of going to Revenue Officers and Civil Courts to get possession of the lands registered. The Member quoted an instance where three Pulayas in whose names an extent of 2½ acres of land in the Vilappil *pakuthi*, Neyyattinkara taluk, was registered on concessional terms in the year 1094 were fighting in the Division Cutcherry, Trivandrum, the Land Revenue Commissioner's Office and the Munsiff's Court in order to get possession of those lands. But, although the case was pending in the last mentioned court, the registry-holders were paying tax for the past several years, while the occupants continued to be in possession. There were very many instances of the kind in the same *pakuthi*. This, the Member said, was very hard and his people were incurring loss on that account. To alleviate this distress, he prayed for the following relief measures:—

(1) In cases where the concessional registry-holders had to sue in Civil Courts to get possession of the lands assigned to them, the court fees in respect of such suits should be remitted.

(2) If the above prayer could not be granted, their suits should be entertained free of court fees and the necessary amount of fees should be recovered from the opposite party.

(3) The members of his community should be exempted from affixing court fee stamps to their land applications.

He also brought to the notice of Government that the places ear-marked for assignment to the depressed classes had absolutely no water convenience. He therefore prayed that good and cultivable lands might be assigned to them.

President's reply.—Mr. Aiyan Kali has referred to the difficulty experienced by his community in getting lands registered and in securing possession of them after the orders of registry have been passed. As regards the assignment of *puduvals* to members of the depressed classes, Government will view the question sympathetically, and wherever such members have settled down on unobjectionable *porambokes*, those lands will be assigned to them. As regards the difficulties to which the members of these classes are subjected after registry, the matter will be enquired into and all that is feasible will be done. In regard to the subdivision of lands ear-marked for the depressed classes, it is stated that the subdivision of some of the lands is over, while, in respect of others, the work is now making some progress.

Mr. Aiyan Kali pointed out that there was no water in most of the lands earmarked for the depressed classes, that, therefore, they settled down in places where they could get water, and that in some of the latter places they were being molested by others. These matters will be looked into in due course by the Special Officer proposed to be appointed for watching the interests of the depressed classes.

Mr. Abraham Issac observed that the members of his community would be prepared to pay *tharavila* for good lands in seven yearly instalments, in case such lands could be assigned to them. This matter will also be looked into.

The other points mentioned in the representations of the Members are noted for consideration.

14. Need for an accurate resurvey of the Shencottah taluk.

Mr. S. A. Hariharakrishna Aiyar (Member, Shencotta taluk) began by saying that the necessity for an accurate resurvey of the Shencottah taluk was very

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